

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Currently amended) A kit for assaying free protein S, the kit comprising a ligand comprising an amino acid sequence homologous or analogous to the extreme N-terminal SCR-module of the β -chain of the C4BP molecule and at least one further reagent required to perform the assay a reagent other than protein S comprising at least one of an antibody specific for protein S, a fragment thereof, and an indicating means capable of producing a detectable signal indicative of the formation of a complex between free protein S and the ligand.

Claim 21 (Currently amended) The kit of claim 20, ~~comprising wherein~~ the ligand is operatively linked to a solid carrier.

Claim 22 (Previously presented) The kit of claim 21, wherein the solid carrier is a microtiter plate.

Claims 23-30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Currently amended) A composition for purifying free protein S from an aqueous solution comprising a ligand comprising an amino acid sequence homologous or analogous to the extreme N-terminal SCR module of the β -chain of the C4BP molecule and at least one further reagent for purification of protein S, wherein the at least one further reagent is capable of releasing protein S from a complex comprising free protein S and the ligand.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claim 33 (New) The kit of claim 21, wherein the solid carrier is a bead.

Claim 34 (New) The kit of claim 21, wherein the solid carrier is selected from the group consisting of a microtiter plate, a bead, a matrix, a gel, a sheet, a strip, and a tube.

Claim 35 (New) The kit of claim 21, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 36 (New) The kit of claim 21, wherein the antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 37 (New) The kit of claim 20, wherein the ligand comprises the extreme N-terminal SCR-module of the β -chain of the C4BP molecule.

Claim 38 (New) The kit of claim 20, wherein the indicating means is selected from the group consisting of a chromogenic label, a fluorescent label, a chemiluminogenic label, an enzymatic label, and a radioactive label.

Claim 39 (New) The kit of claim 20, wherein the indicating means comprises horseradish peroxidase.

Claim 40 (New) The kit of claim 20, further comprising a substrate for visualizing the detectable signal.

Claim 41 (New) The kit of claim 20, wherein the indicating means is operatively linked to, or incorporated into, the ligand.

Claim 42 (New) The kit of claim 20, wherein the indicating means is operatively linked to, or incorporated into, the antibody or fragment thereof.

Claim 43 (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the aqueous solution is blood, plasma or serum.

Claim 44 (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the ligand comprises the extreme N-terminal SCR-module of the β -chain of the C4BP molecule.

Claim 45 (New) The composition of claim 31, wherein the ligand is bound to a solid carrier.

Claim 46 (New) The composition of claim 45, wherein the solid carrier is selected from the group consisting of a microtiter plate, a bead, a matrix, a gel, a sheet, a strip, and a tube.

Claim 47 (New) The composition of claim 45, wherein the solid carrier is a bead.